

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated February 26, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-12 and 14-15 are under consideration in this application. Claim 13 is being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-9 and 11 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to correct formal errors and to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicant's invention. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 5-6 and 11-12 were allowed. Claim 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 7-10 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Application No. 2004/0174484 to Matsumoto (hereinafter "Matsumoto") in view of US Patent No. 6,724,452 to Takeda et al. (hereinafter "Takeda").

Since claim 7 is being amended to incorporate the allowable claim 13 to establish the antecedent basis for the orientation film, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 7 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

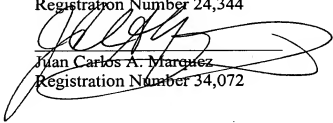
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot

anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 12, 2007

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